

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-24 are pending in this case. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 10, 11, 15, 18, 19, and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bennington et al. U.S. Patent 6,418,556 (hereinafter "Bennington"). Claims 3 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennington in view of McCalley et al. U.S. Patent 4,829,372 (hereinafter "McCalley"). Claims 7, 9, 14, 16, 17, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennington. Claims 12 and 13 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 12 and 13. Applicants expressly reserve the right to rewrite dependent claims 12 and 13 in independent form should the base claims ultimately not be allowed.

Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 18 to more clearly define the claimed invention. Applicants have amended claims 4, 7-9, 18, 21 to conform the claims with the amended independent claims. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

II. Applicants' Claims are Patentable

Applicants' independent claims 1 and 18 are directed to a method and a system for displaying and updating television schedule information data in a television schedule information transmission system having a central data processing system and a plurality of subscriber systems. Commands that instruct the plurality of subscriber systems include command data and the television schedule information data used by the commands, and are received via a television telecast signal. In response to receiving a command, the command data is read to determine the instructions of the command. Responsive to the command instructions, a portion of the television schedule information data included in the command is extracted from the television telecast signal, stored in a memory at the plurality of subscriber systems, and prepared for display. The portions of the television schedule information data are then displayed on a display monitor.

Therefore, applicants' claimed approach receives commands containing command data as well as the television schedule information used by the commands. The command data of a command is then read to determine the instructions of the command. This approach advantageously enables the subscriber system to respond to the command instructions by executing the

command using the television schedule information included in the command.

Bennington refers to a stream of program schedule information which "may additionally contain application software for implementing the electronic program guide at the user site" (Bennington, col. 6, lines 38-63). Downloaded application software data is used to revise or replace the program guide application software stored in memory, which is used to control the program schedule system (Bennington, col. 7, line 17 to col. 8, line 2).

Applicants submit, however, that independent claims 1 and 18 patentably improve upon Bennington by i) receiving commands which include command data and the television schedule information data used by the commands, ii) in response to receiving a command, reading the command data from the command to determine the instructions of the command, and iii) extracting, storing, and preparing the television schedule information data responsive to the command instructions. Although Bennington refers to downloading application software data to the user site via its data stream, applicants submit that Bennington is not directed to reading command data from the received command to determine the command instructions of the command, and responding to the

Application No. 09/741,301
Amdt. Dated April 25, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action of January 25, 2006

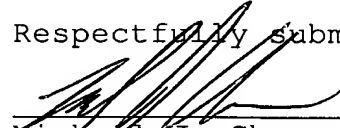
command instructions (e.g., extracting, storing, and preparing) using the television schedule information included in the command, as set forth by applicants' claimed approach. In contrast, the cited portions of Bennington only refer to directly storing the received software data in memory without i) reading the received software data to determine command instructions included in the data and ii) carrying out an action on the data responsive to a command instruction included in the data.

Accordingly, applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 18 are patentable. Claims 2-17 and 19-24, which respectively depend from claims 1 and 18, are patentable at least because claims 1 and 18 are patentable.

III. Conclusion

Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, prompt consideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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